

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-captioned patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendments, claim 1 has been amended, and new claim 7 has been added. Thus, claims 1-7 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added and the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification.

In the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,082 to Suzuki *et al.* ("Suzuki"). The Examiner also rejected claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being rendered obvious by Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,241 to Silfvast *et al* ("Silfvast"). To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as follows.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite an audio signal processing apparatus, comprising "operating means for setting parameters in order for said signal processing means to process the audio signals; storing means for storing a **series of past operation data containing past operation information of the operating means**, said past operation means being **associated with a series of movements of said operating means**; [and] designating means capable of **automatically effecting a desired treatment in accordance with the past operation**

data stored in the storing means.” Thus, the “series of past operation data” includes past operation information “associated with a series of movements of the operating means.”

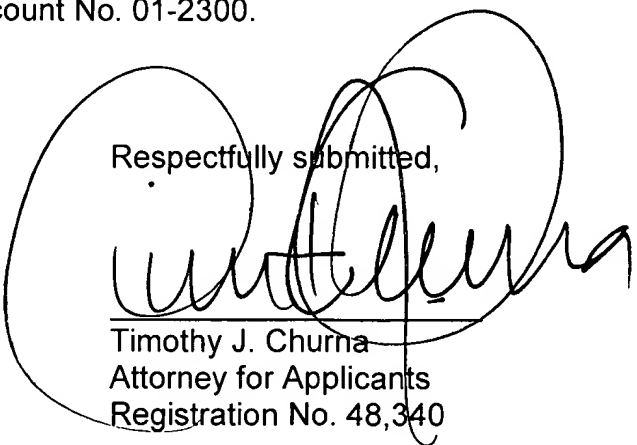
Suzuki describes musical tone generator that includes an operating element panel 1 (which the Examiner asserts corresponds to Applicants’ claimed “operating means”), and a waveform data area 25 that stores a plurality of unprocessed waveform data (which the Examiner asserts corresponds to Applicants’ claimed “series of past operation data”). The musical tone generator described in Suzuki uses the unprocessed waveform data to generate glissando waveform data (which the Examiner asserts corresponds to Applicants’ claimed “desired treatment”). Specifically, operating element panel 1 includes a plurality of buttons and switches used for manually setting one of a plurality of possible performance methods A-D. Because Applicants’ claimed “series of past operation data” includes past operation information “associated with **a series of movements of the operating means**,” the plurality of unprocessed waveform data described in Suzuki cannot correspond to Applicants’ claimed “series of past operation data.” Moreover, the buttons and switches described in Suzuki do not satisfy the limitation of Applicants’ claimed “series of past operation data” because the movement of the switches and buttons is not used to generate the glissando waveform data (which the Examiner asserts corresponds to Applicants’ claimed “desired treatment”), and such movement is not stored in a storage means. Instead, the buttons and switches merely are used to manually select one of the performance methods. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 at least for this reason.

Claims 2-6 depend from allowable independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner also withdraw the rejection of claims 2-6 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants are enclosing a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time to Respond, and a check in the amount of \$430 covering the requisite large entity fee for such an extension, with this submission. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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